

Maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services





Brady Swenson
Jr High Science
North Tama County
George Wyth State Park

Part I: Overview of Business

George Wyth State Park is a 1,200 acre park dedicated to natural habitat and connecting people with the outdoors. The DNR staff at George Wyth is able to educate the public while maintaining a serene environment for visitors to relax, enjoy nature, and discover things that they didn't know before.

Part II: Job Specifics

- Maintaining the State Park
- Educating the public
- Removal of invasive species and restoration of native prairie lands
- Enforcing laws

Part III: Introduce the Problem

Bird enthusiasts love watching and feeding birds. A individual that visits often brought bird feeders of their own to put out at the park. The problem is that it looks messy unnatural. The part of the park where the bird feeders have been placed is actually one of the spots that is set to be restored to a prairie plot.

Question:

How can we please the bird watchers while keeping natural habitat?

Part IV: Background

- What birds live in this habitat?
- What plants are native to the area?
- In what ways does the park work to educate the public? (signs, classes, camps, media, etc.)
- How do we get rid of the existing problematic species?

Part V: Business Solution

George Wyth is working with the local Girl Scouts on a metal tree sculpture that will house the bird feeders. The half acre area will also be restored to prairie plants.

Signage to inform people of the birds and prairie life in that area will be posted along with a few memorial benches.

Part VI: Student Solutions

The ultimate goal for this is to show kids that their actions affect more than just them. The hope is that the kids will learn to respect the natural beauty of the environment and develop habits that encourage others to do the same. In addition they will learn how to compromise.